(**Note.—An asterisk (*) at the Commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.**)

II—PRIVILEGE MATTER *RE.* ARTICLES IN THE BROADWAY TIMES.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members are aware that the House has referred on 17th January 1964 to the Committee of Privileges certain publications in the '*Broadway Times*' under the caption "D.M.K. Cells in Madras Secretariat"

Now, after that reference, the Editor has come out with a series of statements in his paper '*Broadway Times*', dated 24th January 1964 and 7th February 1964.

In the issue, dated 24th January 1964, I find three captions—(1) "Privilege and Broadway Times", "Madras Assembly takes up B.T.", "Posers for the Committee of Privileges", and (3) "B.T. Editor's Press Statement on 22nd January 1964"—and then in the "Broadway Times", dated 7th February 1964, the caption "Stop this witch hunt—City-man's diary".

These publications relate to and have a bearing on the matter of privileges referred to the Committee of Privileges of this House on the 17th January 1964.

It is not worthwhile to state here all the details appearing in these publications. But to understand the aim and object of the Editor in the matter, a few statements may be very useful to the House.

The first point in 'Broadway Times' of 24th January is "Report of the proceedings of the Assembly on 17th January as relayed by the newspapers gives the unfortunate impression that we had had some controversial correspondence with the Hon. Speaker. As we have explained in some detail the exchange of letters was only with the Deputy Secretary". In the reference, there is nowhere stated that the Speaker himself had any correspondence with the Editor. Usually correspondence of the Deputy Secretary is under the direction and with the approval of the Secretary and the Speaker. So, the question is not who corresponds, but what is the case on the merits of the question.

The more important point for the consideration of the House is "The posers for the Committee of Privileges". In that column, the Editor raises very important fundamental questions relating to the privileges of the House, the authority of the Speaker and the authority of the Privileges Committee, to deal with a case like this. He has stated a case coming from Assam where a daily 'The Assam Tribune' has gone to a Court against the Speaker and the Privileges Committee, and in the next sentence he has stated "It remains to be seen what the Privilege Committee is going to do in the 'Broadway Times case' and what the Speaker will do on the Committee's Report".

2nd March 1964] [Mr. Speaker]

In the publication "Stop this witch hunt—City-man's diary", on the 7th February 1964, again he has referred to the same matter that he did not have any correspondence directly with the Speaker, but only with some petty Deputy Secretary of the Legislature Department. He also says "it was grossly unfair of the Speaker to place passages from letters torn out of their context before the House".

All these statement show that the Editor did not recognize the forum before the Committee of Privileges before which he can very well establish his right, but he wants to have a public forum through his papers which, I thing, is contrary to Rules and Conventions. There have been instances in other Legislatures where, when a subject matter was pending before the Committee of Privileges, prejudicial matters were published in the Press and these matters were referred to the Committee of Privileges. Instead of directly meeting the point raised against the Editor in the reference, dated 17th January 1964, he has acted according to his challenge that he is going to answer openly. To my mind, it seems to be a sort of blackmailing even the Legislature.

Since these matters are important and constitute utter contempt of the Legislature, I think it is better to refer these matters also to be considered along with the original reference. I want the opinion of Leaders of Parties.

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Sir, we all agree with you. I move—

"That the matter of privilege referred to by the Hon. Speaker regarding the publications in the 'Broadway Times', dated 24th January 1964 and 7th February 1964 be referred to the Committee of Privileges for enquiry and report along with the matter already referred to it by this House on 17th January 1964."

The motion was put and carried and the matter was referred to the Committee of Privileges.

III.—CALLING ATTENTION NOTICE.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member Sri S. Arumugham, who has given a Calling attention notice, is not in the house. So, we pass on to the next item.

IV—GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET FOR 1964-65.

* திரு. இராம. அரங்கண்ணல் : மன்றத் தலைவர் அவர்களே, கடந்த இரு தினங்களுக்கு முன்பு, ஐந்தாண்டுத் திட்டத்தின் இடைக்கால ஆய்வு பற்றி நடைபெற்ற விவாதத்திற்கு பதில் அளித்த நம்முடைய முதலமைச்சர் அவர்கள், இந்தியத் துணைக் கண்டத்திலேயே தமிழ் நாடு நல்ல சாதனைகளை நிறைவேற்றிக் காட்டியிருக்கிறது என்று பெருமைப்பட்டுச் சொல்லிய நேரத்தில், ஆன செலவின் வளர்ச்சியை இங்கே எடுத்துக் குறிப்பிட்டார்கள்.